

Winter 2006

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What's New

This time of year, people often ask me, "What do you do all winter?" It always makes me chuckle, because I think they envision us either golfing in Arizona or reading long books by the fire. While both of these ideas are quite appealing, neither is possible with the tasks at hand and short time frame of winter.

While we obviously aren't doing many Plant Health Care visits from December through mid-February, we certainly can and do perform pruning, removals and some applicable landscaping projects. While snow in the trees keeps us from climbing, it is often the case that the snow melts from branches relatively quickly and we can prune during much of the winter. Clients have also come to enjoy the winter discount we provide in January and February.

Winter is the time for planning. We ensure that we are appropriately staffed and have the necessary equipment in safe and proficient condition, decide the best training opportunities for each employee and prepare our fleet to have a professional appearance in your neighborhoods. We get our files, systems and workflows in place to be sure you continue to get the right services at the right time. It is rewarding to be adding managerial/leadership training for our three division managers: Ben Kappen, Paul Heindl and Chris Smith. We know that when you choose our services or refer a friend, you expect to get the best arboricultural and landscape services available at a reasonable price – making sure you get just that is what I spend my winters doing.

I'd encourage you to call even now with your pruning, removal and landscape design needs. You can either take advantage of the limited time 15% discount or get signed up first for spring tree care. Wishing you and yours health, happiness and beautiful surroundings in 2006!

In Care of Trees,

Joe Zubaly

President

Mark your Calendars!



To Do Now

- Take advantage of our **15% off** on Pruning, Removals and Landscape Design services **performed prior to 2/28/2006**.
- If heavy snow accumulates on your shrubs, brush it from the limbs with gentle upward sweeping motions.
- The dormant season is an ideal time to prune fruit trees since they typically start bud swell in April and most of the season long they are budding, flowering, fruiting or maturing their fruit.
- Winter is also a great time to take care of large removals creating less impact on your surrounding perennials and turf.

Home & Yard Show

February 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th
Spokane Fairgrounds

Thursday and Friday: 12pm – 9pm

Saturday: 10am - 8pm

Sunday: 10am – 5pm

A terrific show that comes at a great time. The fairground's new floor plan gives you more room to walk and more to check out!

Stop by and see us at booth # 475.

20th Annual Inland Northwest

Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference:

WSU Extension, Conferences & Professional Programs:

January 25th, 26th, 27th

Coeur d' Alene Resort

Call 509-942-4978 for information & registration.

Dispelling Two Common Tree Myths

Myth: Dormant oil applications help to control fruit tree pests like Codling moth and Cherry fruit fly (these are the pests that put worms in your Apples and Cherries respectively).

Dormant Oil is a refined petroleum product and acts as a smothering agent for pests that “over winter” on the plant. It is applied in the dormant season and the pests that it controls best are scale, mites and aphids. But, since Codling moth (CM) and Cherry fruit fly (CFF) larvae over winter in the duff (the ground underneath the tree), a dormant oil application is not effective in controlling these pests.

The applications made to control CFF and CM are timed for the emergence of the male fly or moth with the use of pheromone traps. A pesticide is sprayed onto the fruit’s surface in late spring and early summer to kill the larvae soon after they hatch and try to make their way into the fruit. Two to three applications are necessary for controlling these pests due to multiple generations.

Dormant oil and fixed Copper are effectively combined to provide fungicidal protection from “over wintering” diseases.

Myth: Trees have taproots, especially large Ponderosa Pine trees.

Tap roots are the things of legend that have originated from the weary who have tried to remove tree stumps with the use of an axe, pulaski and shovel.

Trees have root systems that could best be described with the terms “root plate” and “root pedestal”. The “root plate” depicts the far-reaching radial arrangement of the absorptive portion of the root system. These roots extend well beyond the drip line (i.e. the edge of the leaf canopy), are smaller in diameter than those associated with the pedestal and are located in the top 4-18” of the soil. The “root pedestal” is evidenced by the pronounced root flairs (4-6 in most cases) diverging from the stem at ground level. This pedestal does just what it says; it acts as a pedestal to support the above ground portions of the plant. These roots are larger in diameter, extend to depths of 24-36” in some cases, and are not responsible as much for the uptake of water and nutrients but for the anchoring of the tree to the surrounding soil.

The roots of most trees, including Ponderosa Pines, are not going straight down as though it were an extension of the above ground stem (i.e. the idea of a tap root) but extend radially and downward.

A Cool Crowd

Neighborhood Councils and Homeowner Associations are great forums for getting a consensus on what needs to be done in your neighborhood. Some of these organizations are loose knit and meet for a single purpose, maybe even to get informed on a topic. Others have teams and by-laws and are recognized by their local municipality. And still others are legal entities, which receive regular fees, are run by officers, develop goals, maintain budgets and make and carry out a variety of plans. They all provide a method to have broader representation and care for your neighborhood’s issues, whether they be resolving problems or creating positive long term plans. We can and do help these organizations in a variety of ways including, informational presentations about proper tree care and planting, consulting on the creation of a Plant Health Care Management plan, or by providing bids for actual work. Call us if your neighborhood has a need!

Ben’s Bistro

Winter is the time to enjoy hearty foods!

“Salt of the Earth” Chicken Stroganoff Serves 6

- 2 Tbs. Olive Oil (split)
- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 1 green pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 ½ tsp. kosher salt (split)
- 1/2 tsp. fresh ground black pepper (split)
- 16 oz. Mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into ½ in. strips
- 1 c. dry white wine or Vermoth
- 1 c. chicken broth
- 2 Tbs. barbeque sauce
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tbs. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. hot sauce
- ½ c. sour cream (or IMO substitute)
- 1 lb. wide egg noodles

Heat 1 Tbs. of the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, until soft, about 8 minutes. Add the green pepper, ½ tsp. of the salt, ¼ tsp. of the pepper, and the mushrooms. Continue cooking until the mushrooms give up their liquid and are tender, about 6 minutes. Place the vegetables in a colander, **reserving** both vegetables and liquid. Return pan to heat and add the remaining 1 Tbs. of oil. Season the chicken with the remaining 1 tsp. of salt and ¼ tsp of pepper. Cook the chicken until golden brown and cooked through, about 5 minutes. Add it to the vegetables. Pour the wine, broth and vegetable liquid into the pan and bring to a boil. Add the bbq sauce, worcestershire, mustard, and hot sauce. Whisk until smooth. Boil until the liquid has reduced by half, to about 1 ¼ cups, and thickened some. Reduce heat and whisk in the sour cream. Do not let the sauce boil. Return the vegetables and chicken to pan and simmer until heated through. Serve over cooked egg noodles. This dish, with it’s medium spicy flare, is ideal with crusty bread and a light green leafy salad.

“Ask The

Q: A big buck just rubbed my Linden tree, what can we do to save it?

A: While living in the Great Inland Northwest is such a pleasure because of its wildlife, animals can wreak havoc on landscapes. Even plants that are “deer resistant” most of the year can become a great scratching spot or fine entrée for deer during the winter. Once you’ve had damage, we typically have to wait and see how well your particular tree will fair on its own. If the cambium layer has been disturbed all the way around, the tree’s chances are certainly limited since its nutrition highway has been completely interrupted. Replacement may be an option. However, for a valuable plant, we’d typically give it a season to see whether it will recover. Unfortunately, any type of “mixture” you would paint on would actually hinder the closure of the wound since trees are designed to accomplish compartmentalization themselves. As a preventative measure, you certainly can apply plastic sleeves around the trunk; these are readily available at nurseries. These should be removed when the deer pressure decreases and can be reinstalled next season as long as it still fits the stem of the tree.



Q: My neighbor has mulch rings around her trees. Is that something that I should be doing?

A: Absolutely! We love to see trees with mulch rings, especially on the newly planted trees. That’s not to say it is not good for larger specimens as well, it certainly is and here’s why. Mulch (ie: composted bark fines or shredded woody material, not rocks) is an excellent source of organic matter. This breaks down over a period of time and provides nutrients to the soil much the same way leaf and needle litter breaks down on the forest floor. The mulch holds moisture as opposed to turf grass that is in direct competition with the tree for available water resources. Finally, the ring itself keeps the mowers and weed zips away from the base of the tree, decreasing the chance of injuring the young stems while cutting the turf grass. Always use composted material, don’t place more than 3+ inches and don’t put the material in contact with the stem of the tree.

“We want you to know how professional and personable your employees were. We were most impressed and pleased with their work and kindness.”

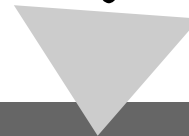
Mr. & Mrs. Z., Spokane, WA



**Who’s
hot**

Shauna Hogan

is our extremely capable Office Manager who drives client service, administration and bookkeeping. Most of you have had the pleasure of speaking with Shauna first hand and know she is both personable and professional. Shauna is very efficient and innovative. Her analysis assists us as a company to improve workflows thereby keeping costs down for clients. We all enjoy working with Shauna and know that your friends and neighbors will too! Shauna and her husband, Brannon, enjoy improving their new home in Coeur d’ Alene by working in their yard side by side with our arborists to complete their landscape design and installation. Shauna is very family oriented, active in her church community, likes to hike and workout, appreciates fine wines and is currently training her new puppy, Denali.



All I need to know about life I learned from trees...

- ...it is important to have roots.
- ...in today’s complex world,
it pays to branch out.
- ...don’t pine away over old flames.
- ...if you really believe in something,
don’t be afraid to go out on a limb.
- ...be flexible so you don’t break when
a harsh wind blows.
- ...sometimes you have to shed your old bark
in order to grow.
- ...if you want to maintain accurate records,
keep a log.
- ...it is perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- ...avoid people who like to cut you down.
- ...get all spruced up when you have
a hot date.
- ...you can’t hide your true colors as you
approach the autumn of your life.
- ...it’s more important to be honest than poplar.
- ...grow where you’re planted.

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Ben's Bistro!
To Do Now
Upcoming Events
What's New
A Cool Crowd
Ask The Tree Care
Experts: Q & A
Who's Hot?
This issue:
LandscapeDesign
Tree Myths
15% Winter Discount

Feel free to submit us a question for our next newsletter. We'd be glad to mail our newsletter to a friend or in bulk. Contact us with a subscriber's address or any comments or questions at: nphc@icehouse.net Editor: Kate Zubaly

Design: Your Landscapes Plan

Winter is not the time of year most people give much thought to the landscape, unless decorating for the holidays. Although spring seems like it's a long way off, the winter is a great time to begin the planning process for those upcoming landscape projects. A new design or consultation may be just what you need to articulate and visualize those changes you are looking for in function and form on your property.

Perhaps you have a lack of functional hardscape that presents difficulties in the wetter months, e.g. no path from your parking area or side gate to your door or maybe you have older landscaped areas with overgrown or unattractive plants that need updating. Having a plan will better help to ensure that all functional and aesthetic objectives are met while projecting these qualities well into the future.

A landscape plan can be as simple as a consultation with an arborist/designer to select a few trees and shrubs for outdated or empty areas in your environment represented by a **concise conceptual sketch**. Where detailed planning and estimation of a project is required, a **complete computer drafted design** showing all existing



features, elevation changes, new infrastructure (such as retaining walls and paths), plants and irrigation layout would be a good idea.

Generally, a **conceptual type design** works best for small renovation projects that do not involve multiple areas, complex features such as elaborate patios/pathways, elevation changes or water-features. In many cases, the style of the landscape is established and we are simply adding to or changing some of the existing features. A **complete computer drafted design** is recommended for new construction, if multiple areas of a site are involved, if hardscape is required or if you want a stylistic type landscape such as a Japanese Garden or an English Cottage style garden. A drafted plan allows for revisions during the design process, avoiding costly changes once construction begins.

In any case, the design process will help you and us to create a visualization of your completed landscape prior to construction. This focused effort will identify and achieve your wish list for the landscape while providing a sense of unified style throughout the site.